



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Water Resources Board**  
100 North Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Providence, RI 02903  
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## **RI Drought Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**October 12, 2005**

### **Quorum**

The Drought Steering Committee, held at the Rhode Island Water Resources Board, 100 North Main Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, was called to order by Chairman Griffith at 9:05 am. Members present included General Manager Juan Mariscal, staff members Kathleen Crawley and Beverly O'Keefe. Nicole Belk, NOAA National Weather Service, John O'Brien, Chief, Statewide Planning Program, Jim Campbell, District Chief, U.S. Geological Survey, and Benjamin Gedan, Reporter, Providence Journal were also in attendance.

### **Approval of September 14, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Griffith asked for consensual approval of the September 14, 2005 meeting minutes. Attending members signified approval of the minutes.

### **Evaluation of State and Local Conditions**

Chairman Griffith introduced Nicole Belk who provided the National Weather Service Current Conditions Report. Ms. Belk presented her report noting the 3-5 day forecast calls for 3-3.5 inches of rain through Saturday. Currently, as a result of increased precipitation throughout the past week, there is a flood watch in effect for northwest Rhode Island. She reported the 8-14 day outlook calls for below normal temperatures and precipitation and above normal temperatures for the long-range forecast (November-December 2005).

Mr. Jim Campbell provided a geological report on Drought Conditions for September 2005. He reported surface water conditions through August were below normal with streamgage recordings quickly approaching 7Q10. He noted the recent precipitation is improving groundwater conditions with the exception of central Rhode Island that continues to experience low levels. He noted the rain will support a positive response in terms of long term recharge. Mr. Mariscal noted a recent meeting with the USGS has identified funding to operate the Pawtuxet gage in Cranston. The gage is operational at this time and is able to provide flood warning information to emergency management officials.

### **Discussion and Next Steps**

Chairman Griffith led a discussion on drought conditions. The current precipitation, the short- and long-term forecasts all support the conclusion that action is not needed at this time. The drought phase will remain in a "normal" condition. Members discussed the need to schedule an early spring meeting to monitor conditions and develop proactive measures.

### **Adjournment**

At 9:30 am, Chairman Griffith made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Campbell and all those present voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Beverly O'Keefe  
Supervising Planner

The meeting place is accessible to the handicapped in conformance with RIGL 42-46-2. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Board office at tel. 222-2217/TDD 222-4707, at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting date. If requested, tapes of the meeting will be made available.